INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Free Territory of Trieste/Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 9 October 1951

SUBJECT

Yugoslav Communist Party Activities in Istria

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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- 1. Under the direction of a certain Gorjan, head of the Yugoslav Communist Party District Committee in Buje, Istria, Party activists circulated among Istrian peasants, a petition concerned with the problem of the Free Territory of Trieste. This petition, which was addressed to the United Nations, urged that the territory southeast of the Dragonja River, actually in Zone B, Free Territory of Trieste, be incorporated into Yugoslavia. Both Croat and Italian peasants in Drtoni la (sic), Momjan and other towns in Istria refused to sign the petition. For the present, Gorjan has abandoned his project.
- 2. This activity of the Yugoslav Communist Party adherents in Istria is part of a plan to reduce the Free Territory of Trieste to the area northwest of the Dragonja River, in order to limit Yugoslav territorial losses in the event Yugoslavia must surronder Zone B.
- 3. Julij Beltrame, Secretary of the Yugoslav Communist Farty Zone B Central Committee, and other Communist leaders in the area still support Yugoslav claims to the whole of Zono B. However, they are now emphasizing the necessity of protecting the interests of two groups. The first of these two groups is composed of pro-Yugoslav Italians who although they no longer wish to remain under Yugoslav rule, fear the return of Italian sovereignty. These individuals have become adherents of the Independentist movement. The second of these two groups is composed of pro-Tito (Pabic) Communist Party followers. These individuals are not only pro-Slovene but also Independentists, who are anxious to see Zones A and B merged into a single sovereign and independent Free Territory of Trieste.

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